



State of Utah

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MP35/0009  
Incoming  
RECEIVED E-Mail

AUG 05 2015

Div. of Oil, Gas & Mining

AUG 05 2015

Mr. Steve Schnoor  
Manager – Environmental, Land and Energy  
Rio Tinto Kennecott  
4700 Daybreak Parkway  
South Jordan, Utah 84095

RE: Request to Construct Pipeline to Capture Seep Water, Ground Water Discharge Permit  
UGW350001

Dear Mr. Schnoor:

**Pipeline Construction Approval**

This letter is in response to the Rio Tinto Kennecott (RTK) August 3, 2015 written request for approval to construct a pipeline to capture seep water adjacent and south of the Barneys leach pads. As proposed, the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) understands the same procedures used for the soil field screening and confirmation sampling described in the approved *Clay Hollow Drainage Channel Sediment Removal Work Plan Version 1.2, June 2014* will be followed during the construction of the pipeline. The work plan, although prepared for another project, is an appropriate interim document in that it describes procedures for removal of contaminated soil originating from the Barneys leach pads, with the same contaminants of concern (arsenic and thallium) that are expected to be encountered during this project.

As noted by RTK, proceeding with construction activities under the interim approval document does not preclude our ability to request additional site characterization or soil removal activities if warranted once the site specific Work Plan is approved.

**Source Characterization Investigation**

Independent of the approval to construct a pipeline to capture the seep water that has recently been discovered to have been impacted by mining activities, DWQ is also requesting further data collection and analysis by RTK to explain the cause and extent of mine impacted water being observed in the seeps. DWQ is in agreement that capturing the mine impacted seep water is a good management solution, but it is still necessary to characterize the source of the contamination, extent of ground water impacts, and whether or not additional remedial activities are necessary.

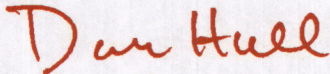


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Within 60 days of the date of this letter, please present a plan and schedule for DWQ review and approval to conduct a comprehensive investigation of the source of the contaminants observed in the seeps.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact Brian Hamos at (801) 536-4384 or [bhamos@utah.gov](mailto:bhamos@utah.gov) if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Dan Hall, P.G., Manager  
Ground Water Protection Section

DH:BH:nf

cc: Douglas Bacon, DERR (via email)  
Kerri Fiedler, EPA Region 8 (via email)  
Leslie Heppler, DOGM (via email)

DWQ-2015-008999